

BBAC Meeting Minutes – 9/15/16

MINUTES of the **BROWN BRIDGE ADVISORY COMMITTEE** **THURSDAY, September 15, 2016** Brown Bridge Quiet Area – Pole Barn 3405 Brown Bridge Road Traverse City, MI 49696

Present: Deni Scrudato, Chair; Marge Forgione; Amy Shamroe; City Commissioner; Judy Nemitz; Jamie Kidwell-Brix; Ed Flees; Paul Maxbauer; and Michael Vickery.

Absent: Nelson Asper, Vice Chair; Kathleen Kasdorf; Marty Colburn, City Manager; Michael Kreft (resigned).

Others Present: GTCD Staff - Steve Largent and Reb Ratliff.

I Call to Order: 5:31 pm.

- 1. Approval of Agenda:** Scrudato stated that discussion of a drone policy was supposed to be on this agenda. It was added as the last bullet under GTCD Update. Largent suggested moving Donor Recognition Policy above GTCD Update and consider driving the access road to where work was recently completed on the Floodplain Reconnection Project and the Shallow-water Wetland. **Motion** by Nemitz; 2nd by Flees to approve the Agenda as amended. Approved unanimously.
- 2. Introductions:** Everyone went around the room and introduced themselves to new BBAC member Michael Vickery who was appointed to fill the vacancy left when David Downer resigned. Mr. Vickery introduced himself to the group.

Scrudato stated that she received an email from Michael Kreft regarding his resignation from the BBAC due to travel plans. Scrudato noted that Kreft had been on the BBAC for a long time and that he would be missed.

3. Public Comment:

- Flees stated that biologists from the United States Fish & Wildlife Service were in front of his house conducting American brook lamprey surveys. He said they used an electro-shocking method that brought the native lampreys out of the sand on the bottom of the river channel by the hundreds. Flees passed around an informational flyer. Discussion continued.
- Largent informed the group about the Bi-directional Fish Passage Project that is slated for the lower Boardman in Traverse City. He said there were 16 rivers under consideration by the Great Lakes Fishery Commission for this experimental system with the Boardman River being one of them. The field was narrowed down to four before the Boardman was selected. This is an exciting opportunity. Discussion continued.

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- 4. Approval of 06/16/16 Regular Meeting Minutes:** Largent explained that that part of the draft minutes highlighted in grey was an addition from Frank Dituri of the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians. Dituri attended the June potluck meeting and submitted the suggested addition/change to Largent shortly after the draft meeting minutes were circulated. **Motion** by Flees; 2nd by Shamroe to approve the minutes as amended. Approved unanimously.

II Review of Action Items:

Action Item 3-3: GTCD Staff to come back with a donor recognition proposal for the BBAC to consider at the June meeting.

Background: Several requests have been made to recognize donors of goods, services, and cash to help implement the work plan at Brown Bridge including a request by the donor of the donated east end footbridge. The District will investigate potential policies, including the City's own recognition policy and report back to the BBAC at the September meeting.

Status: On Agenda - See III below for an update.

Action Item 12-3: GTCD staff to look at oil & gas leases and when they expire.

Background: This is a follow-up to Action Item 6-4-15 where at the direction of the BBAC Chairman, GTCD staff contacted the MDEQ's Office of Oil, Gas, and Minerals to determine what, if any, wells at Brown Bridge had been "fracked". The result of that inquiry can be found in the 12/10/15 BBAC Meeting Minutes. **Status:** Open - No Action – Largent stated that all the field work on the Floodplain Reconnection Project and the Shallow-water wetland have taken a great deal of GTCD staff time and that this issue will be looked into in greater depth as time allows.

- III Donor Recognition Policy:** Largent passed around copies of the City's existing Naming Policy for Parks and Other City Owned and Operated Facilities. Discussion ensued. The BBAC felt the Naming Policy was adequate for Brown Bridge for large donations of cash, goods, or in-kind services. They suggested the donation of trees in honor/memory of someone or something could be listed with GPS coordinates in a registry on the Brown Bridge portion of the City's website. Where there's more than one large donor, such as in the case of the East End Footbridge, a plaque listing the donors and who they may want to honor could be placed on-site.

Action Item 9-1: GTCD staff to develop guidelines for website recognition versus on-site recognition for major and other types of donations.

Action Item 9-2: Invite Norm Fred from Boardman River Clean Sweep to the December meeting to discuss website recognition idea.

IV GTCD Update – At Approximately 6:45 the BBAC moved the meeting from the Pole Barn to the North Access Road.

East End Footbridge: Largent reported that the bridge abutments are in place and ready for a footbridge. There was an apparent miscommunication between the National Guard at the federal level and the National Guard at the state level. For that reason the scheduled air lift of the east end footbridge to the staging area is delayed but still planned. He stated that there was a conference call between the National Guard at the federal and state levels, City staff, GTCD staff, and consultant Gabe Schneider was scheduled for the

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next day, Friday, September 17 at 11:00 am. Update: National Guard Michigan was not able to make the call. National Guard federal will make contact with the Guard officials at the state level to keep the process moving with a possible delay until next spring.

West End Footbridge: Largent reported that the MDEQ permit is ready to be submitted and that Rotary's Friends of the Boardman Committee is planning another Gourmet Dinner Fundraiser for this project on September 19th at the Country Club.

Shallow Wetland Project: The group visited the shallow-wetland site that was just completed the day before. The BBAC viewed how the agri-drain structure worked to control water level. Largent & Ratliff showed where the wetland plants that were "rescued" during a work bee a few weeks prior were stored and are ready to be replanted during the next work bee.

Streambank Restoration/Floodplain Reconnection Project: Largent & Ratliff shared that, in their opinion, this project was a great success. Largent explained that an additional grant was secured through the Watershed Center Grand Traverse Bay that allowed the project to be completed, including stabilization of Spoil Area-5. The BBAC viewed the project first-hand and were in agreement that the project came out very well.

Additional Large Habitat Wood Project: Largent reported that MDEQ and MDNR permitting staff were on-site the week prior to look at the proposed locations of the 23 sites slated for structures. A decision on the permit is expected by the end of September.

Drone Use Policy: Was not discussed and will be added to the December agenda.

Action Item 9-3: Add Drone Use Policy to the December agenda.

V Public Comment – Everyone commented on how they enjoyed the outing and the nearly full moon made an appearance.

VI Adjourn: 7:55 pm

Next Meeting:

Thursday, December 15, 2016 5:15 PM
Governmental Center, 2nd Floor, County Training Room

Minutes respectfully prepared and submitted by S. Largent.